



Volume 7 | Issue 11



November 17, 2015

Final Report from the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission

On October 20th, the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission provided its final report and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Over a six-month period, the Commission and its five subcommittees held 40 meetings to develop the 142 recommendations presented in the final report.

On March 3, 2015 Chairman Bulova received the Board's endorsement for the creation of an ad hoc commission to review Fairfax County Police Department policies and practices related to critical incidents, use-of-force training policies, threat assessments, as well as those within the Internal Affairs Division. The Commission was also created to review procedures relating to how and when information is released to the public; to consider the roles of Police, Public Information Officers, and the Office of Public Affairs; and to assess the relationship between the FCPD and the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney.

Michael Hershman, president and CEO of The Fairfax Group, was appointed to serve as the commission's chairman. Hershman is an internationally recognized expert on matters relating to transparency, accountability, governance, litigation and security. The other commissioners were selected to serve based on their experience in the areas of law enforcement, law, academics, and media. Interested citizens were also selected to participate as commissioners.

In addition to its regular meetings, the Commission held two public hearings to provide individuals with the opportunity to give testimony regarding their perceptions of law enforcement in Fairfax County. Those public hearings are still available for those interested in viewing them. They can be accessed online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission/meeting-schedule.htm>. Many of the testimonies voiced frustrations with county law enforcement agencies' use of force, as well as the apparent lack of transparency and accountability. In response to these concerns, many of the Committee's recommendations seek to improve trust between FCPD and the community.

On November 17th, the Board of Supervisors will vote on a process for implementing these recommendations. Going forward, the Commission will continue to provide guidance as the process continues. [To view the final report please click here.](#)



Supervisor Cook has served on Fairfax County Board of Supervisors since 2009 and lives in Kings Park with his wife and children.

Save the Date – Taste of Braddock on December 9th

Supervisor Cook invites you to join him for the annual **Taste of Braddock on Wednesday, December 9th from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.** Please join your friends and neighbors in the Braddock District at our annual Open House to mark the start of the holiday season. Enjoy a sampling of food donated by Braddock area businesses, as well as the fellowship of friends and family from around the Braddock District. Please RSVP by calling 703-425-9300 or email us at braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov

Congratulations to the 2015 Champions of Character Awardees!

Supervisor Cook and Athletic Council Representative Marcia Pape Daniels were pleased to honor four deserving Braddock District citizens as Champions of Character in a ceremony on October 27th. The Champions of Character Awards recognize players, coaches, and parents who go above and beyond in demonstrating good sportsmanship and character in youth sports. This year's awardees were **James Gaboriault-Whitcomb, Daly Ferguson, Rick Mascardo, and Joan Smith**. Thank you for your service and hard work in the youth sports community!

Do you know someone who has demonstrated extraordinary service in the youth sports community while modeling good sportsmanship, respect, fairness, dedication, responsibility, and good character? Nominate them for the 2016 Champions of Character Awards. Program details and nomination forms are available [online](#).

Blanket & Coat Drive for Refugee Families

Supervisor Cook's office is acting as a drop-off location for the Northern Virginia Regional Commission's effort to collect clean, gently used blankets and coats for refugee families of Syria impacted by the violence of civil war. Last year 18,000 blankets were collected and this year coats of all sizes (infants through adults) are being accepted. Please drop off new or gently used blankets and coats until December 4th. For additional collection sites visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/blanketdrive

Braddock Neighborhood News

Supervisor Cook hosts his monthly television show, Braddock Neighborhood News, on Fairfax County Channel 16, which is available through most cable providers. Each month, Supervisor Cook invites guests to share pertinent and informative items with the viewers.

Joining him this month is Lucy Beadnell, Director of Advocacy for the Arc of Northern Virginia. The Arc is a non-profit organization supporting those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well as their families. Supervisor Cook believes that our communities are at their best when everyone



is included. Encouraging greater awareness and understanding of those who have intellectual or developmental disabilities has been a focus of Supervisor Cook and has brought him into contact with the Arc. Together, Supervisor Cook and Ms. Beadnell discuss what is being done to assist those with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout Fairfax County. The shows air throughout the month and can be seen Sundays at 5:00 p.m., Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. and Fridays at 5:00 p.m. on Channel 16.

Park Authority Weather Closures No Longer Tied to Schools

Effective November 1, 2015, the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) will no longer follow the closing schedule of Fairfax County Public Schools during inclement weather. Instead, in response to concerns about the number of closures and weather-related cancellations of classes and programs, the Park Authority will follow Fairfax County Government closures. Unless Fairfax County closes all county facilities, RECenters and other park facilities will remain open for general use. Classes, team practices, parties and even weddings will go on as planned at Park Authority facilities, unless canceled by the host or by FCPA.

It is important to point out that there will be some exceptions to this new rule. For example, participants in Park Authority programs held at non-Park Authority sites will need to check with these private business locations before heading out. Similarly, Park Authority classes and programs held in Fairfax County Public School buildings cannot take place when schools are closed.

For the most up to date weather related closure information visit the Park Authority website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/weather/ or call the inclement weather line at 703-324-8661. Additional notifications will be made via social media on Facebook and Twitter.

Track Water Main Breaks with Fairfax Water's New Map

You can now track active water main breaks with Fairfax Water's new map. The map tracks active water main breaks and provides real-time status updates. For more information visit <http://ow.ly/U8xYv>

Supervisor Cook in the Community

DVPCC Annual Meeting: On October 1st, Supervisor Cook gave welcoming remarks at the Domestic Violence, Prevention, Policy and Coordinating Council's Annual Meeting at the Government Center.

Cardinal Banking Center Ribbon Cutting: On October 1st, Supervisor Cook took part in a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Cardinal Banking Center at University Mall.

Middleridge Civic Association Meeting: On October 1st, Supervisor Cook addressed members of the Middleridge Civic Association and answered questions about issues affecting the neighbors.

Brentwood Civic Association Meeting: On October 3rd, Supervisor Cook attended the Brentwood Civic Association Meeting to talk to



members of the community association.

Burke Centre Library Teen

Advisory Board: On October 4th, Supervisor Cook addressed a group of High School Students on the Burke Centre Library Teen Advisory Board in preparation for an upcoming Anti-Bullying Fair held later in the month.

Teleconference with the International Space Station:

On October 5th, Supervisor Cook, with hundreds of students from Robinson Secondary School, took part in a Teleconference with the International Space Station with Astronaut Kjell Lindgren (1991 Robinson graduate).

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Reception: On October 6th, Supervisor Cook hosted a reception at the Government Center and gave a Proclamation before the Board of Supervisors for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Burke History Day: On October 10th, Supervisor Cook attended Burke History Day held at the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department.

5K Run for Dyslexia: On October 11th, Supervisor Cook helped award participants at the end of the 5K Run for Dyslexia held at Burke Lake Park.

Annual NVAR Politics and

Pancakes Breakfast: On October 13th, Supervisor Cook attended the Annual NVAR Politics and Pancakes Breakfast at the Ernst Center on the Annandale Campus of NVCC.

Restaurant Industry

Legislative Reception: On October 14th, Supervisor Cook attended a Restaurant Industry Legislative reception at Ozzie's in Fairfax Corner.



Supervisor Cook's 3rd Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Event:

On October 15th, Supervisor Cook hosted a Domestic Violence Awareness event at Chuy's Mexican Restaurant in Fairfax with co-hosts Fairfax City Mayor Scott Silverthorne and Sheriff Stacey Kincaid.

Annandale CROP Walk: On October 17th, Supervisor Cook welcomed participants in the Annandale CROP Walk at Lake Accotink Park.

Anti-Bullying Fair: On October 17th, Supervisor Cook attended the Anti-Bullying

Fair hosted by the Burke Centre Library Teen Advisory Board at Robinson Secondary School.

Eagle Scout Court of Honor:

On October 18th, Supervisor Cook attended an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for local Boy Scouts, Liam Kelly and Christopher Margraf.

Wakefield Forest

Elementary PTA Meeting:

On October 19th, Supervisor Cook addressed members of the Wakefield Forest Elementary PTA with Braddock School Board Member Megan McLaughlin.

Lake Braddock Secondary School Homecoming

Parade: On October 23rd, Supervisor Cook took part in the Lake Braddock Secondary School Homecoming Parade.

Pathway Homes Help the Homeless Walk in Fairfax:

On October 24th, Supervisor Cook gave welcoming remarks for the Help the Homeless Walk hosted by Pathway Homes in Fairfax.

Grand Opening of Ravensworth Shopping

Center: On October 17th, Supervisor Cook took part in a grand opening celebration for the newly renovated Ravensworth Shopping Center.

Kings Park West Civic Association Halloween Parade and Festival: On

October 25th, Supervisor Cook took part in the annual Kings Park West Civic Association Halloween Parade and Festival.

2015 Champions of Character Awards: On October 27th, Supervisor Cook attended the 2015 Champions of Character Awards

Ceremony at the Government Center.

Human Services Corner

Fairfax County's Hypothermia Prevention Program is dedicated to keeping our most vulnerable community members safe during the long, harsh winter months. Without the essential support of nonprofit and faith-based community partners, the program would not be nearly as successful. As a result of the collaborative efforts, no unsheltered individuals died this past winter due to hypothermia.

This year's program is an integral part of the Fairfax County effort to prevent and end homelessness, and incorporates faith communities, civic organizations, businesses, and individual volunteers. This coalition creates a network of shelters that are available during the coldest months in Fairfax County. This is a critical and lifesaving resource offered by the County, and it is also a remarkable way to give directly back to your community.

The Northern Virginia Family Services' (NVFS) Hypothermia Prevention Program is operated under the management of Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter (BCCS) staff. It is open from December 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016. Guests assemble at the BCCS each evening at 4:00 p.m., and are afforded a hot shower, dinner, clothing, laundry, and case management services. Through partnerships with over twenty faith communities in Fairfax County, BCCS expands its ability to serve those seeking shelter by transporting guests to off-site hypothermia prevention shelter locations. For further information about the program or volunteer opportunities, please contact Mario Wright at MWright@nvfs.org or (703) 820-7621.

FACETS' hypothermia prevention season runs from November 29, 2015 through March 31, 2016, with doors opening at 5:00 p.m. each evening and closing at 7:00 am every morning. FACETS rotates week-to-week between faith community hosting sites. Beginning on December 27, 2015, FACETS will operate from two faith community sites each week. Community members are welcome to participate by volunteering their time at one of the current locations and donating items such as food and clothing. For further information, please contact Barbara Schultheiss at BSchultheiss@facetscares.org.

Fairfax County relies on our nonprofit and faith-based community partners to help us give some of our most vulnerable neighbors a safe place to stay out of the cold. The program's success requires many volunteers and donations. As winter progresses, please reach out to the local faith-based organizations in your neighborhood or the contacts listed above to see if they could use your participation or donations. For more general information on the Hypothermia Prevention Program, please contact Debbie Scaggs at debbie.scaggs@fairfaxcounty.gov or (571) 722-8952 in the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness.

Community Events throughout November

Aging in Place Presentation, Nov. 18:

The presentation will be a general overview of the Fairfax/Falls Church Area Agency on Aging.

Shepherd's Center Lunch N' Life, Nov. 19:

Lunch N' Life will take place from noon until 2:00 p.m. at Lord of Life Lutheran Church (5114 Twinbrook Road in Fairfax). Retired Executive White House Pastry Chef Roland Mesnier will be discussing his new book. The cost is 10 dollars a person. For a reservation, please contact Faye Quesenberry at 703-620-0161.



upcoming support groups. Free childcare is available during the meeting. Participants must live in Fairfax County, or the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church. For more information or to register, call 703-324-5447, TTY 711. The next group will take place on November 19th from 6:30 until 8:00 p.m. at Bryant Alternative High School in Alexandria (2709 Popkins Lane, Rooms 40 & 41).

Protect Yourself From Fraud and Identity Theft, Nov. 20: This seminar will take place at 2:00 p.m. at the Kings Park Library (9002 Burke Lake Road).

Free Support Group for Kinship Caregivers, Nov. 19: Grandparents and other relatives who are raising children are invited to the county's

Online Training for Youth on Helping Others Who Have Mental Health Concerns

Friend2Friend is a free 30-minute online simulation that gives high school-aged youth a chance to practice helpful ways to talk with friends struggling with psychological distress. Teens can learn about emotional health and wellness, warning signs of mental health concerns, and ways to help a friend in distress. For more information visit <https://kognitocampus.com/peer/>.

The Arc of Northern Virginia

The Arc of Northern Virginia's information and referral service helps families to navigate the complexities of the disability service system. Here are some ways to find more information if you are in need of services.

Information by Phone: The Arc is only a phone call away to help families and professionals with up-to-date information about a variety of community resources including physicians, residential providers, vocational providers, respite, and educational services. You can access this information by calling 703-208-1119.

Workshops, Webinars, and Conferences: The Arc of Northern Virginia is also an information and referral source for families and professionals. To keep families up-to-date on advocacy issues and provide information on disability issues, The Arc hosts and sponsors many educational seminars and workshops throughout the year. For more information visit <https://thearcofnova.org/programs/workshops-conferences/>.

Trust Presentations: Tia Marsili, Director of Trusts, presents to families, siblings and adults with disabilities or others interested in learning about special needs trusts and other tools to consider when

developing a plan for the future. These sessions are free, but you must register to reserve your seat. For more information visit <https://thearcofnova.org/programs/workshops-conferences/>.

Guardianship: The Arc is a state-designated Guardian of Last Resort (GOLR) project for Northern Virginia. Since 1995, The Arc has operated the GOLR program, which is contracted by the Virginia Department of Aging.

Environmental Update

In mid-October, ecologists from the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services helped an electrofishing contractor, Solitude Lake Management, Inc., to capture and relocate thousands of fish in Royal Lake. This work was undertaken in anticipation of the Royal Lake dredging project planned for early 2016. The work was undertaken in October before the fish went into winter hibernation.

County staff members coordinated the removal and transport of assorted fish species to Lake Barton, Brookfield Pond and Lake Braddock. Many of the fish targeted for relocation are regularly stocked in lakes and ponds throughout Virginia. Relocated species include largemouth bass, channel catfish, black crappie, bluegill and redear sunfish. The game fish species were released at Lake Barton, Brookfield Pond and Lake Braddock.

Staff relocated juvenile bass and crappie to Brookfield along with a large number of bluegill and redear sunfish. Lakes Barton and Braddock received all the large game fish along with a considerable number of juveniles and various forage species. Lake Barton received the bulk of reproductive-aged game fishes. Several thousand fish were ultimately removed from the lake.



Stream Monitoring Events

Don't let the cold weather scare you away from spending quality time outside in the streams. There will be a monitoring workshop on Saturday, November 21st at Difficult Run in McLean/Great Falls. For more information visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/monitoring.htm>.

Seeking Watershed Friendly Gardens/Landscapes in the Reston-Herndon Area

The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Sustainable Garden Tour showcases properties that feature native plants, wildlife habitat, composting, rain gardens, rain barrels and other nature-friendly practices. If you live in the Reston-Herndon area and would like to showcase your home (or church, school, community center, or business) during the 2016 tour, please contact Lily Whitesell by emailing lily.whitesell@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Choose a "Green & Clean" Landscaping Company

Do you hire a company to take care of your lawn and property? Landscaping companies registered with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation as "Green & Clean" agree to follow landscaping

practices that will reduce the amount of fertilizer runoff into our streams and rivers. Such practices include testing the soil for nutrient content before applying any fertilizer, adhering to caps on the amount of nitrogen applied to grass throughout the year, sweeping up any fertilizer that lands on hard surfaces such as sidewalks and driveways, and recycling grass clippings back into the soil. To learn more about the program and see the full list of companies on the Green & Clean registry [please click here](#).

Gypsy Moth Volunteer Monitoring Program

Fairfax County's Urban Forest Management Division is seeking volunteers to help search for and report gypsy moth egg masses on public and private lands. Volunteers will supplement the County's own monitoring and help protect our shared tree canopy by preventing and containing gypsy moth outbreaks. For more information on how to get involved, please visit Urban Forest Management's website.

Public Comment Period Open for Selection of Malloys Bay

Malloys Bay on the Potomac River is home to one of the largest fleets of sunken ships in the world. Nearly 200 ships dating as far back as the Revolutionary War can be found there. The announcement from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) marks the first time in 15 years the United States will be designating new marine sanctuaries. Before it becomes official, NOAA will be holding two public hearings in Maryland in November and soliciting public comments through their website and regular mail until January 15th. To learn more about Malloy's Bay, to make a comment, or to learn more about the Marine Sanctuary Program, please visit NOAA's website.